FBIS DAILY REPORT

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SOVIET AMBASSADOR BRIEFS GOVERNMENT ON AFGHANISTAN

PY122035 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The Soviet Union has explained to the Argentine Government its position regarding the events taking place in the world, particularly the events related to Afghanistan.

The information, released by the Foreign Ministry, states that the under secretary of foreign relations, Col Carlos Cavandoli, met for this purpose with the Soviet ambassador, Sergey Romanovich Striganov.

LAMBRUSCHINI DOWNPLAYS FRICTIONS WITH UNITED STATES

PY120044 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 11 Feb 80 p 7 PY

[Text] Mar del Plata--The commander in chief of the navy said yesterday that the current frictions between Argentina and the United States would not create a delicate situation.

Regarding the State Department report, he said: "In principle, no one likes to have a foreigner get into one's house. But there is no need to be emotional on these matters, and it should be considered that some matters can be carried to delicate extremes by emotional reactions."

Lambruschini, who returned to Buenos Aires yesterday, refused to comment at first. He said that there was "nothing new to say," and that he did not want "to repeat himself." He decided, however, to talk about relations with the United States, and he also announced that "there will be something interesting" after the forthcoming meeting of the military junta.

He also said that due to the importance of the matters to be discussed by the military junta, these must be kept secret.

Lambruschini added that the navy is considering "other viewpoints, new guidelines," which will be submitted to the junta. This statement referred to the political aspects of the process of national reorganization.

The head of the navy talked with reporters in the Provincial Hotel just before attending a play.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SOUTH KOREA

PY120205 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0012 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Feb (NA)--The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) signed an agreement today with the Korea Electric Company, a South Korean company in charge of that country's development of nuclear electricity.

The agreement establishes scientific and technological cooperation in the field of nuclear electrical energy between the two institutions. The document was signed by Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero, head of the CNEA, and Sung Chang Kin, vice president of the Korea Electric Company.

BRIEFS

COST OF LIVING--Buenos Aires, 8 Feb (NA)--The Economy Ministry has reported that during January 1980 the cost of living increased by 7.2 percent, and that during 1979 the rise in the cost of living reached 127.9 percent. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1217 GMT 8 Feb 80 PY]

CABINET REPORTEDLY TO RESIGN ON THURSDAY

PY121818 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] The resignation of the cabinet ministers will without a doubt take place on Thursday, to be immediately followed by the formation of a new cabinet which will guarantee the administration of clean, honest and impartial elections. This official confirmation was provided by Interior Minister Jorge Selum Vaca Diez in a talk with newsmen accredited at Government Palace after his meeting with President Lidia Gueiler Teuada.

The interior minister also reported that he had had a meeting with Gen Armando Reyes Villa, commander in chief of the armed forces and that the democratic and constitutional process of the country was being guaranteed by the armed forces.

ARMED FORCES REAFFIRM SUPPORT FOR GUEILER

PY130149 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] The armed forces have reaffirmed their decision to continue to give their full support to Lidia Gueiler's interim constitutional government to allow her to complete the democratic process. The decision was conveyed to Interior Minister Jorge Salum Vaca Diez by members of the military high command at a meeting held today at the Miraflores Headquarters.

Minister Salum told newsmen that the conditions and guarantees required to conduct the national democratice process through completely normal channels were discussed at the meeting.

He noted that the armed forces had reaffirmed their support for the process of constitutionalization and had disallowed any interpretation or attitude which may be contrary to the position stated by the armed institution. Dismissing the possibility of a subversive coup, he said that the current political situation may be regarded as normal.

Commenting on the movement of armored units of the Tarapaca Regiment early this morning, the minister said that he had been briefed in detail by high ranking army officers as to the reasons for the movement. He received assurances that the movement of armored units was for maintenance purposes only. He added that he had briefed the president on this matter.

PANEL POSTPONES REPORT ON BANZER'S TRIAL

PY121958 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1807 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 12 Feb (LATIN)--The constitutional and judicial police commission of the legislative branch postponed until the end of the month its report regarding the trial of former President Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, congressional sources reported today.

The members of this commission should have submitted their judicial report today after investigating all the circumstances. However, because of the number of persons involved in the process and the number of former government officials who were called to testify, there was not enough time, according to Miguel Ramirez, president of the commission.

SOCIALISTS WILL NOT OFFER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

FY121641 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Feb 80 FY

[Excerpts] The national directorate of the Socialist Party No 1 [PS-1] has addressed an open letter to the left in which it states that it is relinquishing any vice presidential or presidential aspirations.

We do not even ask in return that other candidates representing political fronts or parties relinquish their own aspirations. We will be satisfied if the candidates of the united left deserve the approval of the forces to which they belong.

The communique released by the PS-1 is a complement to an open letter published in a local newspaper entitled: "Third election or fourth coup?" The letter points out that the goal sought by that political group is the formation of a vanguard for unity which responds to the tactical and strategic needs of the struggle of the workers and peasants.

Our aim, the PS-1 adds, is not to disorganize existing fronts or impede the formation of other fronts. The agreement should respect the identity of the fronts and parties which participate in concluding a coalition among themselves or leftist fronts that struggle for liberation and socialism.

The PS-1 reiterates that it was not, is not, and will not be election-oriented [electoralista] because the nomination of a vice president and president is usually, even in leftist groups, a real impediment to unity. That is why the PS-1 relinquishes any vice presidential or presidential aspirations.

Finally, the communique concludes that unity should arise from the need to organize a solid vanguard of the working masses.

MINISTER PLEADS FOR RESTRAINT IN ECONOMIC DEMANDS

FY121619 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 12 Feb 80 FY

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Augusto Cuadros Sanchez has warned that Bolivia's critical economic and financial situation may become still more serious if the climate of social conflicts and strife among labor, departmental and other organizations continues. He asserted that the wave of serious conflicts going on in the country may lead to a greater deterioration of the economy of the nation, since it reduces productive capacity and, consequently, incomes. The minister then said that the only possibility for preventing a new monetary devaluation is that of managing public matters in a responsible and orderly manner.

He also maintained that it is necessary that the Bolivian people be more reasonable in the demands they make, taking into account the present critical economic situation of the country. He requested understanding from the various labor, civic and business organizations of the country for the work being done by the constitutional government in trying to consolidate the democratic process of the nation.

BRIEFS

ANDEAN GROUP COMMISSION PRESIDENCY--Bolivia, through its industry, commerce and tourism representative, will assume the presidency of the Andean Group Mechanical Metals Industry Commission for a period of 1 year starting today. This decision was taken in compliance with the regulations of the Cartagena Agreement. [La Paz Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Feb 80 FY]

ARGENTINE OFFICIAL CITED ON FORMATION OF NUCLEAR BLOC

PY131221 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 80 p 1 PY

[Text] Carlos Castro Madero, president of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission, stated yesterday in Buenos Aires that the cooperation agreement which will be signed during President Figueiredo's visit in May will allow the formation of a Latin American bloc to support the right of the region to have access to nuclear technology. Madero also stated that the agreement will show that there does not exist a "dangerous rivalry" between the two main powers in Latin America, as argued by some industrialized nations which present as an example the problems existing between India and Pakistan.

Itamaraty Reacts

PY131235 Paris AFP in Spanish 0439 GMT 13 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpts] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry reacted cautiously today to the proposal made by Carlos Castro Madero, president of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission, in favor of the formation of a Latin American nuclear bloc.

According to reports published today by the Brazilian press, Castro Madero announced this proposal in Buenos Aires to a U.S. news agency reporter.

The Brazilian diplomat [as received] stated that Brazil seeks a policy of cooperation in all sectors with neighboring countries, but indicated that he did not understand very well Castro Madero's remarks on the nuclear bloc.

NUCLEBRAS [Brazilian Nuclear Corporation] President Paulo Nogueira Batista and Hervasio de Carvalho, president of the Brazilian National Nuclear Energy Commission, will visit Buenos Aires on 17 March to continue the talks initiated in Brasilia with Castro Madero.

COMMENTATOR FAULTS POSITION AGAINST U.S. GRAIN EMBARGO

PY121505 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Alberto Tamer commentary]

[Text] The surprise has come much sooner than expected. The next U.S. soybean harvest--the planting of which will begin in May--will amount to approximately 60 million tons, and world production will increase from 80 million to 96 million tons. This is not yet causing a violent drop in prices, but it certainly will in a very short time, because the U.S. soybeans which will not be sold to the Soviet Union--17 million tons in all--will be dumped onto the international market, thus forcing prices to fall.

Consequently, Brazilian producers are loudly protesting, because if we want to sell our soybeans to the Soviet Union, breaking a traditional alliance with the Western and anti-communist world, we will have to sell them at a low, very low price, and we will profit very little, very little indeed, which will not compensate for this contradictory position of the Brazilian Government at all.

We have erred in the soybean policy and we have erred in the sugar policy and now, perhaps, we will err again in maintaining this intransigent position if we do not accept the open criticism of the Western world against the Soviet action in the Middle East, an action which is now causing a direct threat to Iran and all the oilwells in the region.

LEGISLATOR QUESTIONS VALIDITY OF NICARAGUAN CLAIMS

PA122026 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Ricardo Barrios Zuldaga, president of the Foreign Relations Advisory Committee today questioned the juridical validity of Nicaraguan sovereignty claims over San Andres, Providencia, Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana.

Talking to this station, parliamentarian Barrios Zuldaga commented that Nicaragua's claims over Colombian territory lack all jurdical validity for, were it to be accepted, it would lead to the automatic repudiation of all international agreements signed with de facto regimes. Barrios Zuldaga pointed to the case of Bolivia, where most regimes have resulted from coups. According to him, Nicaragua's current views might be alleged by future Nicaraguan governments in order to void all treaties signed by the present revolutionary junta.

Cuba Allegedly Intervened

PA121948 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The maritime controversy between Nicaragua and Colombia seemed to be affecting Colombia's relations with Cuba, Radio Circles said in Bogota on Monday. Fernando Ravelo, Cuban ambassador to Colombia, met Monday with his top advisers with the apparent intention of reviewing the delicate situation that has arisen in the last few days with regard to an alleged intervention by the Castro regime in the maritime problem.

Envoy to Cuba Denies Charges

PA121950 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Clara Nieto Ponce de Leon, Colombian ambassador to Cuba, today denied the rumors that the Castro regime is behind the Nicaraguan sovereignty claims over San Andres, Providencia, Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana.

In a dialog with this station, the ambassador said from Havana that these are false charges against the Cuban Government. She also denied she has been recalled for special consultations with the Turbay Ayala administration.

[Begin Ponce de Leon recording] No, I have not been recalled and I have no information on the subject. The president has not recalled me and I have not received any information. With regard to the rumors that Cuba is behind all this, I personally doubt it, but then, of course, I can't confirm this. My opinion merely results from an analysis of Cuba's international policy. I do not believe they have intervened against Colombia or any such thing. [end recording] The ambassador stressed that current Colombian-Cuban relations are normal and that the charges against Cuba are groundless.

[Begin Ponce de Leon recording] I don't believe that, not at all. Particularly since in the 2 long years I have been here I have seen many campaigns waged against Cuba, certain things, certain charges that in the long run turn out to be false. So in my view there is nothing to these rumors. But I obviously lack any evidence; I cannot confirm something for which I have no evidence. I am simply deducing that this is not true. [end recording]

In conclusion, Ambassador Clara Nieto Ponce de Leon said she is satisfied with the diplomatic work she has performed in Cuba in the past 2 years.

Panamanian Mediation Rejected

PA120403 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota--Colombia rejected the possibility of Panamanian mediation in its confrontation with Nicaragua over this country's claims on the San Andres and Providencia Islands and the Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana cays. Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas turned down a mediation offer by President Aristides Royo. He said there is no possibility of mediation.

Meanwhile, former President Carlos Lleras came out in support of Colombia's open rejection of the Nicaraguan claims on the above-mentioned archipelago. We have nothing to discuss with Nicaragua with regards to borders, Lleras wrote in an editorial titled: "The Absurd Nicaraguan Pretensions."

COSTA RICA REQUESTS SAFE-CONDUCT FOR REFUGEES

PA122031 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Costa Rican Government today urged Colombia to issue a safe-conduct to 2d Air Force CPL German Pinzon (Sora), who has sought refuge at the Costa Rican Embassy in Bogota. Pinzon entered the embassy on 2 January and requested asylum for himself, his wife and their little daughter, alleging that he was being persecuted by the air force intelligence service.

According to Rolando Blanco, Costa Rican charge d'affaires in Bogota, his government has again asked the Colombian Foreign Ministry to grant the corresponding safe-conducts.

A foreign ministry spokesman has told this station that Pinzon's fate will be determined this week. Pinzon has made several charges against the military, which the air force general command has denied.

FARC GUERRILLAS RELEASE KIDNAPED AMERICAN

PA122210 Paris AFP in Spanish 2204 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Neiva, Colombia, 12 Feb (AFP)--U.S. biologist Richard Starr, 35, who was kidnaped by the communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), has been released unharmed a military spokesman announced here today.

MINISTER SAYS NO AMNESTY FOR ARMED GROUPS

PA111529 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The possibility of granting amnesty to members of the armed groups currently operating in the country has been totally discarded. Government Minister German Zea Hernandez warned that as long as these armed groups continue attacking towns and killing peasants, it will be impossible to think about an amnesty. Nevertheless, the minister stressed that if those groups dissolve, the possibility of pardoning their [words indistinct] actions may be considered.

TELEPHONE COMPANY TO REPLACE STRIKING WORKERS

PY121621 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The Peruvian Telephone Company will hire new workers to replace those dismissed for being absent from work. The company is entitled to hire new personnel in view of the persistent attitude of the workers who refuse to perform their tasks although a decision has been reached regarding their petitions.

The telephone workers strike, which began on 4 February, has been outlawed by the Labor Ministry.

TWO MORE GROUPS JOIN LEFTIST REVOLUTIONARY ALLIANCE

PA111535 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Feb 80 p 4 PA

[Text] The Socialist Revolutionary Movement [Movimiento Revolucionario Socialists--MRS] and the Revolutionary Labor Party [Partido Obrero Revolucionario--POR] formally announced they would join with the Leftist Revolutionary Alliance [ARI] during a meeting of the members of ARI the day before yesterday.

The new organizations signed a joint communique with the Peoples Democratic Union [UDP], National Union of the Revolutionary Left [UNIR], Anti-Imperialist Revolutionary Forces for Socialism [FRAS], Workers Revolutionary Party [PRT] and Revolutionary Marxist Workers Party [POMR] in which they reaffirmed the unity of the ARI in accordance with its originating documents.

Javier Diez Canseco, a former constituent and member of the VR-UDP [not further identified], said that contrary to the reaction which had been expected, the ARI had been strengthened at this most recent meeting. He said groups like UNIR, which had voiced dissatisfaction with some points of the agreement, had also signed the communique indicating they ratified the documents signed by ARI.

He added that at the meeting it was agreed to leave pending the discussion of parliamentary candidates until next Wednesday to await the results of the registration of parties.

I appeal to workers to participate in the mobilizations and meetings of the left, he said.

Diez Conseco announced the ARI has called a news conference tomorrow to announce these agreements in more detail.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LEAD-ZINC MISSION--An official Japanese mission is visiting Peru to assess the country's production of lead and zinc concentrates, which are needed by Japanese industries. The evaluation is being carried out at the Latin American level, but special attention is being paid to large producers such as Peru. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY]

AGRICULTURAL LOANS--The revolutionary government spent 80 billion soles on agricultural loans between January and November 1979. The loans, which were given by the Peruvian Agrarian Bank, were mostly channeled toward peasant cooperatives and groups. A spokesman for the Peruvian Agrarian Bank disclosed that this year's agrarian aid program is going to be even more aggressive. [Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Feb 80 PY]

HERRERA CAMPINS MEETS WITH SAUDI KING

PA122025 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins and Saudi Arabian King Khalid today agreed to further strengthen the ties between their two countries as well as OPEC. A source close to the two rulers said in Riyadh that the agreements are most important for both Venezuela and Saudi Arabia. No specific details were given, but it was said that both President Herrera Campins and King Khalid are pleased with the results of their work.

The foreign, energy and mines ministers as well as other high-ranking officials of the two countries held various meetings. It was also reported that President Herrera Campins spoke with the Saudi king about the Andean Pact countries' aspirations. The Venezuelan president tomorrow will visit Iraq and then Vienna, headquarters of OPEC. Before returning to Caracas next Sunday, Herrera Campins will stop over in Tenerife, Canary Islands.

The Saudi newspapers today emphasized the Venezuelan president's visit, pointing out the importance of his talks with King Khalid.

PRESIDENT'S MIDEAST TRIP WILL NOT INCLUDE IRAN

PA122240 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2145 GMT 11 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 11 Feb (EFE)--It was reported in Caracas on Monday that Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins would not change the plans of the trip he is making to several Arab countries. The tour does not include Iran.

The Venezuelan state news agency VENPRES released a dispatch with a Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) dateline in which Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano Velasco denied rumors that Herrera Campins would visit Iran.

Zambrano told VENPRES that when the presidential retinue departed from Caracas, the itinerary was clearly established. He noted that the "present circumstances do not allow a visit to Iran and these circumstances will not change much."

A Kuwaiti paper reported today that Herrera had accepted an invitation from the Iranian authorities to visit their country.

Zambrano made these statements to VENPRES in Riyadh tonight during a banquet given by Saudi Arabia's King Khalid in honor of President Herrera, who is on the sixth lap of his tour.

Since last Monday, Herrera has visited Algeria, Libya, the Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait. He will remain in Saudi Arabia until Wednesday. Then he will go to Iraq and later to Vienna, the permanent OPEC headquarters.

Before returning to Caracas on Sunday, Herrera will remain for a few hours in the Spanish Canary island of Tenerife where it is possible he will meet with Spanish Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez.

Herrera is traveling in the company of his wife and children as well as his foreign, defense, energy and mines, and investment ministers.

During this tour, the Venezuelan president is spokesman for the Andean Pact.

VICE PRESIDENT OBSERVES U.S. MILITARY EXERCISES

PA080410 Panama City Circuit RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Feb 80 PA

[Manuel Santamaria report]

[Excerpt] We will now ask Panamanian Vice President de la Espriella to give up his opinion of the significance of the U.S. Army's Black Fury III operation he has just observed.

[Begin recording] [Question] What is the importance and significance of this operation for Panama and the peace of the canal?

[Answer] We were able to see how the U.S. Army trains to protect the canal. According to the treaties, Panama and the United States have the obligation to protect it. I wanted to have firsthand knowledge of how they accomplish their training.

[Question] Since you and all Panamanians are men of peace and the achievement of peace is difficult, what do you think would be the cost of a third world war?

[Answer] It would be simply disastrous. One could not say if the world could recover or if our generation would be able to see a recovery after another world war.

[Question] Mr Vice President, I think your presence here is quite daring. Does this mean that you are fully confident about the actions of the North Americans here?

[Answer] Yes, I have full confidence because I think they are the ones who are running more of a risk in case something happens to me. [end recording]

PEOPLE'S PARTY DEFENDS SOVIET ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN

PA090257 Panama City UNIDAD in Spanish 16-31 Jan 80 p 8 PA

[Statement by Central Committee Political Bureau of Panamanian People's Party on the Afghan events; issued in Panama City on 10 January]

[Text] Washington has launched a series of slanders and distortions through the news media aimed at exploiting anti-Sovietism and at misinforming the world about the true warmongering plans of Yankee imperialism which seeks to blackmail peoples such as those of Iran and Nicaragua who have been able to overcome national oppression. As if this were not enough, the commotion is used to turn the U.S. election campaign in favor of Carter.

In Defense of the April Revolution

The lie consists of referring to the event without looking at its causes in the international context. In April 1978, a democratic, antifeudal and anti-imperialist revolution was staged in Afghanistan which borders with the Soviet Union, Iran and Pakistan. Since the first day of that revolution it was harassed by Yankee imperialism, Great Britain and the opportunistic Beijing regime which due to its frenzied anti-Sovietism, acts as the peon of the imperialist provocations in several parts of the world.

They encouraged the Pakistani reaction to serve as a support base to encourage the tribal and religious conflicts in Afghanistan and to facilitate the economic and military aid to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. [paragraph continues]

This interference by U.S. imperialism and its Beijing ally endangered the Afghan revolution which had already chosen its path of socioeconomic transformation and had established a friendship and aid agreement with its true neighboring friend, the Soviet Union.

The government of that revolution headed by Taraki was the target of a coup carried out by Amin who now has been unmasked as a CIA agent. Amin assassinated Taraki and in agreement with Yankee imperialism and Beijing and using Pakistan he began a policy of liquidating the revolution and persecuting and jailing the true revolutionaries.

It was in this situation that the forces most loyal to the April revolution overthrew traitor Amin, tried and executed him. But since the imperialist forces were on the other side of the border ready to smother the Afghan revolution in blood, Afghanistan requested the help of the Soviet Union by invoking the pact of friendship, aid and cooperation. According to Article 51 of the United Nations, all countries have the sovereign right to do this. The Soviet Union, faithful to its international commitments and to its policy of helping peoples who struggle for freedom and above all the small and weak countries, came to Afghanistan's aid and provided military help. This aid is directed against the aggressive forces of Yankee imperialism, the Beijing provocateurs and the Pakistani reactionary interventionists. Therefore, it is not an intervention in Afghan domestic affairs as Carter has said but clear support of the aspirations of liberation of a people who have been subjected to oppression for centuries.

A Courageous Reply

The action of the Soviet Union is not only legitimate from the viewpoint of international law but is politically just because it is a courageous, firm and determined reply to the forces which continue playing with war, which blackmail peoples in their just struggles and which have yet to learn that the world has changed, that imperialism is not omnipotent and that the socialist camp is a powerful force not only capable of defending itself and destroying the antisocialist plans of the world reaction but of defending other peoples outside the socialist world no matter how far away they are as is the case of victorious Vietnam and the Angolan, Ethiopian and now the Afghan revolution. The days of the successive victories of imerpialism are over. We are living in the age of the unstoppable vicotry of socialism, democracy and national liberation.

Carter Wants to Arrive at the Brink of War to Win Votes

The Afghan events have occurred at a time when the warmongering rightwing of the United States and the NATO countries has intensified its activities and when Carter is capable of taking the entire world to the brink of war to win votes for his reelection. The imperialist provocations against the Afghan revolution are not unrelated to the nuclear rearmament of West Europe, the support of Israel against the Arab peoples, the Yankee provocations against the Iranian people, the blockade against Cuba and the threats against the Nicaraguan revolution and other Central American peoples who struggle against tyrannies.

They are also linked to the sabotage which these reactionary and warmongering circles of Yankee imperialism carry out against the correct implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties in the path of the country's decolonization. All of these events demonstrate the aggressive, warmongering and plundering policy characteristic of Yankee imperialism and its lackeys, including the Beijing leadership. But it is evident that imperialism's desperate campaign of misinformation on Afghanistan--whose revolution destroyed the gringo plans in the Middle East--is to try to hide the real Yankee objectives of intervening in Iran.

To us it is strange and surprising that the Panamanian representative to the United Nations, in the name of the Panamanian people--a people who have been attacked by the army of the Yankee imperialists whose government even now haggles over our national rights and violates the Torrijos-Carter treaties--has run up to be in the forefront of those who shout and repeat anti-Soviet slanders, hypocritically accusing the USSR of intervention. Our attention is also drawn to the fact that this Panamanian delegate remained silent in the face of the nuclear rearmament in West Europe, disregarded the Yankee intervention in Iran and the protection given to the criminal former shah and that he did not criticize the Pakistani intervention in Afghanistan which was supported by Carter, the British Government and the Beijing leadership.

This bias reminds us of the subservience toward Washington which the oligarchic representatives practiced before 1968. This position is absolutely contrary to the militant support which General Torrijos and the Panamanian people gave to the Nicaraguan people in their struggle against tyrant Somoza. Therefore, we must declare that Mr Illueca's statements in no way express the Panamanian people's true patriotic feelings of national independence and socioeconomic change.

The Elder Brother Protects the Smaller Ones

The Soviet Union--and let no one be deceived--will never remain passive in the face of the aggressions of imperialism against the peoples who struggle for their liberation, democracy and socialism. Neither will it be indifferent to imperialism's war threats, its plots against world peace, such as the rearmament of West Europe, the Chinese provocations against Vietnam, the threats against Iran or the interventions against peoples who have achieved their revolution, such as Nicaragua. The revolution today is a single world family and its powerful fist brings about real social justice in country after country.

Our party firmly supports this Soviet foreign policy and with this support we express the desires and feelings of the real Panamanian revolutionaries. That is why the Soviet military aid to defend the Afghan people in the face of the foreign threats is the real exercise of the principle of proletarian internationalism which is so dear and respected by us. We express our great joy on knowing that the fraternal Afghan people can carry out their deep revolution firmly protected by the invicible socialist forces headed by the Soviet Union.

We are also filled with joy to see that Yankee imperialism, which continues to trample on our fatherland, has been halted in Afghanistan, suffering another irreversible defeat which thus helps our chance to culminate our national liberation struggle.

This is how the revolution for which we struggle advances in the world. The unity of the revolutionaries and the aid of proletarian internationalism is the key to the consecutive defeat of imperialism and its world of injustice and war.

Long live the Afghan revolution! Long live the fraternal Soviet support! Let us eradicate the remnants of colonialism in Panama before the year 2000.

EL SALVADOR

REPORTAGE ON SPANISH EMBASSY CRISIS CONTINUES

Possible Release of Hostages

PA121845 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Spokesmen of the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28) have told ACAN-EFE that the six hostages being held in the Spanish Embassy might be released in the next few hours.

The sources added that the LP-38 was preparing at noon (1300 GMT) a communique in which they will express their position on the issue of the occupation.

Spanish Ambassador Released

PA130156 Paris AFP in English 0152 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, Feb 13 (AFP)--The Spanish ambassador to El Salvador, Victor Sanchez-Mesa, was released Tuesday by leftist guerrillas who have been occupying his embassy for the past week.

Guerrilla leader Carlos Argueta, 21, said the ambassador had been sent home, but that the militants of his LP-38 movement would continue their occupation.

SHOOTING DELAYS EMBASSY CRISIS SOLUTION

PA122214 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2105 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[By Rosendo Majano]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The shooting today in this capital, with a toll of 3 dead and over 20 wounded, delayed the departure of the occupants and hostages of the Spanish Embassy, a spokesman of the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), said.

He noted, however, that a settlement is imminent to end the occupation, now in its eighth day, and release the diplomats, including Ambassador Victor Sanchez-Mesas.

Carlos Argueta, LP-28 leader, implied that the embassy would be cleared, possibly by tomorrow.

He denounced the tragic incidents today in downtown Guatemala City, the machinegunning of the Central Committee of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), occupied by members of the leagues, and the fire at the San Salvador University, at the offices of the leagues and at the 19 July Revolutionary University Students (UR-19).

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS MACHINEGUNNED

PA122213 Paris AFP in Spanish 2030 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (AFP)--The headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] here was machinegunned this afternoon by unidentified persons.

The PDC headquarters is occupied by 28 February People's Leagues [LP-28] members, who are holding 15 hostages, including the wife of the minister of education and a daughter of government junta member Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich.

The party headquarters, which newsmen were allowed to enter, is now closed.

No information has been released on the effect of the attack or if there are any dead or wounded.

The building is located not far from the site of the intensive shooting today at noon.

Meanwhile students threw incendiary bombs at vehicles in the downtown sector and it was revealed that contact bombs had been placed on some streets to prevent movement.

As a result of these incident, mass transportation was stopped in San Salvador, which appeared deserted this afternoon.

Headquarters Evacuated; Many Wounded

PA122348 Paris AFP in Spanish 2319 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (AFP)--The headquarters of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) was evacuated today by Salvadoran security forces in an action which caused many wounded, according to a local radio station.

The headquarters had been occupied since 29 January by the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), who were holding the wife of the education minister and a daughter of a government junta member, Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich.

The evacuation occurred hours after a serious armed clash in the downtown sector of the city which, according to still unconfirmed reports, left a total of 10 dead.

The whereabouts of the hostages and the occupants of the PDC headquarters is not yet known.

OCCUPATION OF EDUCATION MINISTRY ENDS PEACEFULLY

PA121801 Paris AFP in Spanish 1756 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (AFP)--The occupation of the Salvadoran Education Ministry ended here today. The students who had been occupying the building for the past week abandoned the ministry and freed their hostages.

Shortly before the end of the occupation, Education Minister Eduardo Colindres, the high school students' main hostage, signed a 16-point document in which he promised to meet the occupiers' demands.

SHOOTINGS OCCUR IN SAN SALVADOR AFTER STUDENT MARCH

PA121926 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1912 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Shooting continues to be heard near the ACAN-EFE offices in San Salvador after a student demonstration was attacked by unidentified individuals.

The demonstrators were apparently members of the Movement of Revolutionary High School Students who had abandoned the Education Ministry and freed 12 hostages a few minutes before.

The smoke from a burned vehicle is rising in thick columns which can be seen in a large part of the capital.

The ACAN-EFE correspondent was able to see several civilians with automatic weapons hiding behind electricity posts and in the corners of nearby streets.

The shooting began near the headquarters of the former ruling National Conciliation Party. No deaths have been reported so far. At least two vehicles have been set on fire.

Deaths Reported

PA121938 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A small demonstration of the leftist Movement of Revolutionary High School Students (MERS) going to Western San Salvador ended with an initial toll of three dead and seven wounded.

Since the shooting has been continuing for the past 30-minutes, it has been difficult to find out how the incident began. There are no authorities in the streets where the shooting is occurring.

ARMY DENIES ERP REPORT ON ATTACKS ON POLICE

PA122224 San Salvador Radio Cadena Central in Spanish 1605 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces last night denied a report by the Revolutionary Peoples Army [ERP] that it had inflicted 17 casualties on the security forces during recent actions.

In a communique, the army indicated that on 24 January members of the ERP attacked the garrison house of the treasury police in Arambala, in the region of the border with Honduras. The attack caused only property damages. The leftists fled, abandoning war materiel.

The army added that on 5 February, the treasury police post in (Manchulime), some 80 km east of San Salvador, was attacked by the ERP. One policeman was wounded and three Marxists were killed.

The armed forces said that the Marxist-Leninist organizations issue false reports to convince the world that there is a civil war in El Salvador.

JUNTA MEMBERS HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE 9 FEBRUARY

PA121331 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 80 pp 8, 52 PA

[Text] Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, member of the government junta, has discounted the legal validity of any agreements that might be reached under pressure in the present circumstances in which several groups have occupied public buildings, embassies and political offices to obtain advantages.

Majano was answering a specific question regarding the present status of negotiations to obtain the release of hostages being held at the Education Ministry.

"It is not possible to negotiate under pressure and agreements reached under those circumstances have no legal validity," the official said. He noted there have been complaints about human rights violations from the groups which are occupying those buildings. He said the complaints are completely unjustified. In the case of the Education Ministry, the hostages are being subjected to the cruelest psychological abuses by the same groups which are calling for respect for human rights, he said.

The question was asked of the junta member after a news conference which was held in the Honors Room of the Presidential Palace on Saturday at noon, with over 50 local and foreign newsmen in attendance.

The members of the junta answered approximately 20 questions asked by the newsmen and even answered other questions after the panel ended.

In answer to the first question, Dr Morales Ehrlich said the occupation of the embassies is unjustified, since everything the occupiers are asking for can be granted without such pressure.

The newsman asked why, since these demands could be met, the junta had waited until the occupations took place before explaining that everything was negotiable. The junta member explained that such acts were political. One of the newsmen noted that the greatest problem being faced by the government junta at present is the lack of credibility. No one wants to believe in its promises. In reply, Engineer Dada Hirezi said this was true. There is a lack of credibility because the masses have been deceived by previous governments. However, he said, they are prepared to demonstrate they will keep their promises. "Credibility," he said, "cannot be demanded by decree."

"If we start to analyze credibility, we might be embarking upon a vicious circle," he said.

Someone asked what measures the government would be prepared to take to prevent terrorist acts. Morales Ehrlich replied that terrorist actions will be fought with measures which demonstrate that the terrorists are mistaken, and not by repressive measures.

In answer to the question of why the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has agreed to govern along with military officers, Engineer Dada said both the army and the PDC are committed to a number of measures for the benefit of the community. "We have embarked upon works for the general benefit and we are going to be successful. No one is going to stop us," he said.

Regarding the existence of parallel power structures, based on recent statements made by Major D'Aubuisson, Engineer Dada Hirezi said there are no parallel powers. He said there is a single power and the armed forces and government are a single unit.

The junta members admitted there are sectors which seek to divide the armed forces, but they said such sectors will be unsuccessful. They discounted the importance of the introduction of men and weapons from Nicaragua for the insurgents. They said men and weapons have indeed come into the country, but this does not mean the Sandinist Government is supporting the rebel groups in El Salvador.

Regarding the constitutional violations of which the government is accused, the junta replied that it is true that after the October coup, the 1972 Constitution remained in effect, but because there have been conflicts, a legal statute will be drafted.

Dr Morales Ehrlich said the changes are imminent and will be made despite the opposition of some sectors. He recalled that the people are realizing the benefits of the changes that will accrue to all, without exception.

The members of the junta discounted the possibilities of a civil war. Morales Ehrlich said that one could take place if the leftists attempted to take power.

Engineer Dada said we are in a period of speculation. Everyone is speculating. Everyone wants to make his own prophecies. "There are still people," he said, "who fear change, but the changes must come. We will make the changes in the least possible time."

Regarding the occupation of the Spanish Embassy, the junta said everything is going well and the Attorney General's Office is investigating the whereabouts of three persons whose appearance is demanded by the LP-28. No one has admitted responsibility for their arrest.

Similarly, an investigation has been ordered into the whereabouts of two persons arrested in the area around the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador.

Regarding land reform, the junta members said the Agriculture Ministry has already submitted a basic document in this regard.

"There is an absolute willingness to carry out this reform," they said.

Regarding the economic crisis which the country is experiencing, the junta members said there are problems, but it is hoped they will be resolved by means of a number of projects which will make it possible to employ the greatest number of persons. It was admitted that the greatest problem is the closing of factories, but studies are underway to determine the way to correct this situation. To this end, the government is working on an emergency plan.

The members of the junta expressed regret over the closing of embassies, but said this in no way represents a lack of support for the government. The support and relations remain unchanged, they said.

They said: We hope when the situation is normalized, the diplomatic missions will return to the country.

Moreover, they explained that the fact that the missions are transferred to another country does not mean that the embassies here are closed. They remain just as they were. [as published]

The U.S. Embassy has recommended that U.S. citizens remain in El Salvador only if it is extremely necessary. Otherwise, it is better for them to leave. In this regard, Colonel Majano said that to some extent they are right. He said, however, that precautions are being taken to offer greater security to foreigners and their embassies.

The junta members admitted that the leftist guerrillas pose a serious problem in El Salvador, but they noted that, within the framework of respect for human rights, measures are being taken to combat them. Dada Hirezi said the meeting of Central American foreign ministers is still scheduled, but that El Salvador does not plan, nor is it suggesting any measure to be taken against subversion in Central America. Other topics will be discussed he said. Regarding statements made by Dr Ungo [former junta member] in Europe, the junta members said while the statements deserved full respect, they were unacceptable. They noted some Christian Democrats in the government are doing their jobs while complying with PDC doctrine. Like Dr Ungo, they said, such people put their profession to use in their jobs.

Dada Hirezi said Dr Ungo's statements make him smile, because when Ungo had been in the junta, there were more business groups, but now that there are less, he criticizes the junta. At the end of the conference, Dr Morales was interviewed. He said measures must be taken to prevent injury to the hostages in the various public buildings. He noted that human rights are being violated in many of the locations that are occupied.

MAJANO BLAMES LEFTISTS FOR INCIDENTS

PA130331 Paris AFP in Spanish 0240 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (AFP)--The serious incidents which caused bloodshed in the Salvadoran capital today were provoked by armed extreme leftist groups, Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, military chief of the Salvadoran Government junta, told AFP here today.

In his office Colonel Majano received AFP reports and confirmed that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] headquarters, which had been occupied since 29 January by the 28 February People's Leagues (LP-28), was evacuated this afternoon, resulting in the deaths of five--four occupiers and one security guard.

Eyewitnesses reported nine dead--four occupiers, two security guards and three students who took part in the demonstration which was dispersed with gunfire today at the PDC headquarters.

COMMENTARY ACKNOWLEDGES DANGER FOR DIPLOMATS IN COUNTRY

PA130106 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Feb 80 p 13 PA

[Commentary: "The Logical, Temporary Withdrawal of the German Embassy"]

[Excerpt] On few occasions has a country like ours been as moved by a news report as El Salvador was by the report of the temporary withdrawal of the seat of the German ambassador, for transfer to Guatemala. The truth is, if there were a way to measure Salvadoran affection on a scale, first place in seniority and well-proven loyalty would indisputably belong to Germany. Bonn's decision is in no way a political one. It is due to the legitimate needs of the diplomatic mission, in view of the fact that the degree of violence in our country makes it practically impossible to guarantee the safety of any important mission.

GUATEMALA

DEPUTY SUGGESTS INVESTIGATION OF SPANISH EMBASSY EVENTS

PA121537 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 6 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Concerning the international censure against Guatemala over the events which took place last Thursday at the Spanish Embassy Napoleon Alfaro, chairman of the Congressional Foreign Relations Commission, has said that a committee should have previously investigated the situation.

Deputy Alfaro said that his party, the Revolutionary Party, today issued a communique analyzing the events at the Spanish Embassy and pointing out that a study should be conducted to determine who began the conflict. The representative said that the terrorists occupying the Spanish Embassy were responsible for the problem. Deputy Alfaro noted that peasants should no longer be used as bait for these irreparable situations.

SPANISH AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON RELATIONS, SECURITY

PA121613 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemalan Ambassador to Spain Col Ernesto Paiz Novales, who returned Sunday from Madrid, said he had come back satisfied because the security of Guatemalans living in Spain, most of them students, has been guaranteed. According to him, the Spanish authorities have not bothered Guatemalans.

He added that the break in relations with Guatemala is deplored in Spain. For his part, he went on, he did all he could to be heard by ranking Foreign Ministry officials in Madrid, but a decision (?had already been made).

It is expected that the broken ties will be resumed in the future.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT OPPOSITION

PA122237 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Leftist organizations and news media which serve them as vehicles of propaganda today continued in several countries to exploit the events at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala. Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez has reported the instructions which have been given to the Guatemalan embassies and ambassadors to counteract the campaign to discredit Guatemala.

[Begin recording] Immediately after these events, the Foreign Ministry issued precise instructions to all our embassies. In these instructions there is special emphasis on the conduct of the Guatemalan Government, which believes that the most important thing is the establishment of complete truth on these terrible events. We believe that the best defense for the Guatemalan people will be the truth and nothing but the truth. The ambassadors have gotten in touch with all the friendly governments about this. As more light is shed on this regrettable action, there will be more understanding from our brothers in the world. [end recording]

OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE INVITED TO VISIT

PA122238 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 7 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez has announced that Guatemala and its president have invited the Inter-American Human Rights Committee to visit Guatemala and witness conditions in the country.

[Begin Castillo recording] The invitation was issued in the last days of January. All members of the committee were invited to visit, not just a few. Their visit will enable them to view the Guatemalan reality. They will be able to analyze not only what occurs, but also the origins of the situation in Guatemala. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE ON SUBVERSIVE ATTACK ON MINISTER

PA121535 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Press communique]

[Text] The attack carried out against Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz by subversive criminals whose only language is that of terror and death constitutes further irrefutable evidence of their perverse intention to continue creating unrest among a people who want peace.

Disregarding the most elemental humanitarian principles, the terrorists not only carried out an attempt on the lives of the ranking officer and his companions but also on the lives of many people, including women and children, who might have become the victims of their criminal actions.

Fortunately, and despite the considerable material damages caused by the force of the criminal explosion at the site of the incidents and in the nearby areas, the bombs detonated by the subversive criminals did not accomplish the desired objective. Neither did they injure any of the numerous people who were peacefully at home or in the neighboring areas at the time of the attack.

The enemies of Guatemala stop at nothing and no one--thus, their unlimited irresponsibility in perpetrating this type of terrorist activity without foreseeing their serious consequences among the peaceful and defenseless population, who is getting to know them better each day through this type of [words indistinct] activity. They have definitely taken the wrong path and for this reason--fortunately for Guatemala--they will fail.

In condemning this new criminal action by the subversive criminals in the strongest of fashions, the government of the republic (?firmly) exhorts all conscientious Guatemalans to remain united in the face of the communist threat posed by this handful of bearded individuals who, in view of the impossibility of their rising to power through the paths of law and democracy, have chosen the path of terror, kidnaping and crime.

HONDURAS

ARMY FOILS 'INVASION' OF NICARAGUA 9 FEBRUARY

PA121619 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1548 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 12 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Several local radio stations announced today that last Saturday the Honduran Army managed to foil an armed invasion of Nicaragua and had captured 250 men and 20 women at a training camp.

The camp was located near Guanacaste, under the jurisdiction of Concepcion de Maria, in the southern department of Choluteca, near the Nicaraguan border.

Those captured did not offer any resistance to the 11th Infantry Battalion. They said they are former Somozist guardsmen expecting weapons from a friendly country in order to launch an invasion in Nicaragua.

According to unofficial information obtained by Tegucigalpa's Radio America, the army has taken the 270 people captured to a camp in Yusguare, where they are being kept under control and strict vigilance.

NICARAGUA

MARITIME BOUNDARIES TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH NEIGHBORS

PA122230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1925 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[By Libardo Aguirre Saenz]

[Text] Bogota, 12 Feb (EFE)--Nicaragua announced today a change in its international policy and said it will start a process with its neighboring countries to delimit its maritime territory 200 miles from its shores.

Sergio Ramirez, one of the members of the Nicaraguan National Reconstruction Government Junta, made the announcement today to the Bogota Radio Station Caracol in a telephone conversation from Managua. He said, "We will begin to establish the boundaries, based on bilateral treaties with the neighboring countries of the Caribbean," of our sovereignty over the 200 miles which Nicaragua wishes to extend in the same manner that other countries of the hemisphere have done.

Ramirez also referred to the problem that his country has raised with Colombia over the sovereignty of the islands of San Andres and Providencia and the cays of Roncador, Quitasueno and Serrana and said that "we want to explain the situation in a fraternal way to the Colombian Government." Sergio Ramirez advised that Nicaragua only accepts a serious discussion of the issue "because we are a weak country, with no army, no warships."

Further explaining Nicaragua's claim to Colombia, the government junta member said that the treaty does not exist for Nicaragua, and therefore, he explained, one cannot speak of annulling the treaty.

"We have not given any thought, for example, to seizing the islands, because we do not have troops for such a military operation," Ramirez pointed out. He said that although Nicaragua has not yet appointed a delegate to conduct these fraternal conversations with the Colombian Government, Rodolfo Avanza Salinas, the new ambassador to Colombia, will begin the conversations aimed at achieving a favorable solution to the incident.

"Our relations with Colombia have not suffered any kind of deterioration. We maintain a cordial climate of fraternity and brotherhood with Colombia, the Nicaraguan junta member reiterated.

Meanwhile, Fernando Navas de Brigard, Colombian ambassador to Nicaragua, met in Bogota with President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas to brief them on the actual situation between the two countries.

In Colombia, a plebiscite is underway to determine the support for the national government concerning the Nicaraguan claims of sovereignty over the islands of San Andres and Providencia and the cays, which are Colombian property according to international treaties.

Meanwhile, in San Adres, a pro-Colombian public rally is being organized for this week. In Bucaramanga, the Bolivarian society has invited President Trbay Ayala to attend a rally to protest the attitude of the Central American country.

SOMOZISTS REGROUPING FOR ANTI-SANDINIST INVASION

PA130407 Paris AFP in Spanish 0244 GMT 13 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Feb (AFP)--Spokesmen for the Interior Ministry said here today that the threat of a Somozist invasion of Nicaragua is real and has been confirmed by the recent capture of 270 former members of the National Guard who had regrouped in Honduras.

The sources recalled that 3 weeks ago Interior Minister Comdr Tomas Borge said in a speech that the former Somozist guardsmen will not cease their attempts to return to the country by force of arms and are reorganizing in Miami to that end.

According to a report here today, 250 men and 20 women of the former National Guard had organized in the area around Concepcion, in the Honduran border Department of Choluteca, where they were captured by the Honduran Army's 11th Battalion.

The former guardsmen said they were waiting for weapons--which were to have been brought to them by friends--in order to enter Nicaraguan territory by force.

Ever since the Sandinist victory, the army has placed its best units, including an artillery unit, in the area of the Honduran border to maintain special vigilance because the greatest number of former Nicaraguan National Guardsmen are in refuge in Honduras.

The local press reported recently that a former National Guard sergeant had been captured in the western part of the country and had confirmed that another 500 former Somozist guardsmen were trying to organize in the mountainous region in the westernmost part of Nicaragua to attempt an invasion.

Since the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution in July of last year, the Sandinist People's Army has greatly improved its military cadres. According to members of its general staff, what was formerly a very disorganized irregular force has become a very competent conventional army. The Sandinist army has displayed no new weapons in any of its military parades, other than weapons captured from the Somozist army, but it is believed to have much greater military power now than at the time of its victory.

Meanwhile, government sources in Tegucigalpa remained absolutely silent today regarding reports of the capture of the former Somozist guardsmen.

Neither the Honduran Foreign Ministry nor any other military source has confirmed or denied the reports or the capture, which were broadcast by local radio stations.

Col Leonidas Torres, chief of Honduran military intelligence, told AFP he had no information about this arrest.

CST DENOUNCES SLANDEROUS, MISINFORMATIVE CAMPAIGN

PA091912 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 3 Feb 80 pp 1, 6 PA

[Passages in capitals published in boldface]

[Text] The Sandinist Workers Central (CST) hereby addressed the entire Nicaraguan people in response to the insidious campaign of misinformation and slanders that certain newsmen and information media have launched against our secretary general, Companero Ivan Garcia Abarca, in the wake of the march to repudiate the counterrevolution staged on 29 January in Managua.

The speech delivered by Companero Ivan Garcia Abarca, in which, interpreting the feelings of workers, peasants, women, students and people in general, he expressed support for the closing of the poorly-named newspaper EL PUEBLO and asked the government to adopt strong measures against other spokesmen of the counterrevolution, has served as a pretext for certain newsmen and pseudonewsmen to further unleash the above-mentioned campaign.

More specifically, we are referring to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, Oscar Leonardo Montalvan ("the Man of Mil") and Guillermo Treminio, of LA PRENSA, Radio Mil and Radio Mundial, respectively, who, in attacking Companero Garcia Abarca, attack our people.

Their attacks cannot be interpreted any other way, because in expressing support for the closing of EL PUEBLO and in demanding a firm hand against the counterrevolution, the CST secretary general was simply interpreting the feelings and will of our Sandinist people, as expressed at the great march that ended at the newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal Plaza.

In the name of press freedom, of "their" press freedom--for they hold a very particular view on this concept and they understand it in accordance with their interests--the above-mentinned gentlemen have taken advantage of the situation in order to make confusing, misinformative and essentially counterrevolutionary propaganda that attacks our Sandinist peoples revolution and tries to discredit it.

It is strange how apparently the unlikeliest of elements have come together in this campaign. The editors of EL PUEBLO, who used to define themselves as revolutionaries and Marxist-Leninists," are now being defended by Conservatives, Social Democrats, Christian Socialists and people of all stripes, who have united to achieve a single objective: to attack the revolution.

On this occasion it might be good to discuss the meaning of the term press freedom, as well as its content, for this is the "battle cry" of the above-mentioned gentlemen and other "independent" journalists.

In the first place it should be noted that there are no independent journalists: in one way or another all of them act in accordance with their particular class interests, or more clearly stated, in accordance with their economic, political and social interests.

So there can be no independent journalism. Every journalist is connected to certain interests that, depending on his position, may or may not be in accordance with the interests of the people.

In our revolutionary process, therefore, there are only two alternatives for journalists: either they are revolutionaries or they are counterrevolutionaries.

In the second place--and still on the subject of press freedom--it must be stressed that each social class understands freedom in a different way, because it conceives of it in accordance with its fundamental interests.

To illustrate the above, we must give some examples: In the ancient world the slaveowner understood freedom as the power to oppress the slave while the latter, on the contrary, understood freedom as his liberation, that is, the breaking of the chains tying him to his oppressor.

In the Middle Ages the feudal lord understood freedom as the power to exploit his vassals at will. They in turn took freedom to mean their liberation from that situation.

Under capitalism the bourgeoisie has understood freedom as the right to exploit the worker. The worker in turn understands freedom as the right to free himself from the yoke of oppression and exploitation.

The Sandinist peoples revolution is being waged in our country. As a result of this a number of situations and concepts must be transformed and this means we workers must adopt an eminently classist position in connection with this problem. In Nicaragua press freedom must be understood as the workers' and peasants' fight to inform and be informed in accordance with their immediate or long range CLASS INTERESTS.

In Nicaragua press freedom must be understood as the Sandinist people's right to decide who should and who should not inform them, in accordance with their class interests.

Thus one might ask: Were not the people themselves the ones who supported the closing of EL PUEBLO by staging a march to repudiate the counterrevolution on Tuesday, 29 January? Were not the people--workers, peasants, professionals and students--the ones who shouted at the newsman's plaza that Radio Mil and Radio Mundial should be closed because they are organs of the counterrevolution? Were not the people the ones who firmly demanded that the machinery of EL PUEBLO be used for the national literacy campaign?

Chamorro Barrios, Montalvan and Treminio are obviously not interested in answering these questions honestly and instead have dedicated themselves to attacking Companero Garcia Abarca, by calling him an "instigator" and a "unionist of new coinage."

Montalvan has even hysterically asked: What has Ivan Garcia done for the revolution? What are his qualifications to be a leader?

Undoubtedly these gentlemen cannot be familiar with the CST secretary general's activities, because they never picked up a rifle or shared with him the dangers and the discomforts of normal life or his bravery and courage.

In any case we will answer those gentlemen by telling them that Companero Garcia Abarca joined the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in April 1970 and carried out several tasks assigned him during the revolutionary struggle. In 1976 he became active in union and popular activities in the Union of Carpenters, Masons, Joiners and Related Workers in Leon and in the Union of Workers and Employees of the San Vincente Hospital in Leon. (Therefore, he is not a "unionist of new coinage," as Chamorro Barrios charges. The Leon workers can provide further information if you are still not satisfied).

In 1977 Companero Garcia Abarca was promoted to the rank of general staff member of the FSLN's Rigoberto Lopez Perez Western Front.

In September 1978 he was second in command of the guerrilla contingent that attacked Leon's 21st [not further identified], alongside Ernesto Castillo Salaverry.

In November 1978 he was arrested in Leon after carrying out various war activities. He later arrived in Managua and joined the political commission of one of the FSLN factions.

Along with guerrilla Comdr Monica Baltodano, Companero Garcia Abarca directed the seizure of Jinotepe and Granada during the final insurrection.

These are only a few facts about the CST secretary general's activities--to list his activities in full would take too long. Anyway we do not believe Companero Garcia Abarca's slanderers ever carried out even ONE of these tasks.

In conclusion we would like to ask Chamorro Barrios, Montalvan and Treminio: What have you been? What have you done for the revolution?

And we ourselves will answer: Chamorro Barrios has always led a comfortable existence, far removed from the workers' sacrifices, from difficulties and scarcity.

As far as we know, Mr Montalvan has never done anything for the revolution either. In his days as a colorless newsman under Somozism, he always tried to be on good terms with everybody. When he interviewed political prisoners--for he had access to the news conferences held in the Security Office--the questions he asked made him sound more like a questioning henchman than a newsman.

As regards Mr Treminio, he must be reminded of his recent ties--while posing as an "opposition" newsman--with Mr Juan Alberto Henriquez, one of the leaders of the Maoist and counterrevolutionary Workers Front. Mr Guillermo Treminio must also be reminded that he was once at the service of Somozism, working in the Radiodifusora Nacional and that he stood out as one of the announcers who most "enthusiastically" read the proclamations and attacks against the Nicaraguan people's struggle led by the FSLN.

In spite of all this they have been allowed to work; they have been allowed to criticize, attack, misinform, disorient and distort the facts, in their efforts to discredit our Sandinist peoples revolution and, in fact, wage counterrevolution.

Nevertheless everything has a limit. We sincerely ask these gentlemen to reflect and modify their stand by not confusing freedom with unrestrained freedom [libertinaje], by not confusing our revolution's generosity with naivete. We sincerely invite you to change your stand, which plays along with the counterrevolution. Finally we invite you to join constructively in the tasks of national reconstruction and consolidation of the Sandinist peoples revolution. Otherwise, history will know how to judge you.

2 February 1980, [signed] CST Organization Council

JOURNALISTS CRITICIZE 'PSEUDOJOURNALISTIC GROUPS'

PA082256 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Feb 80 p 3 PA

[Text] The Union of Journalists of Nicaragua [UPN] and the Managua Radio Newsmens Union [SRPM], organizations which represent the revolutionary journalism of our country, issued a statement of support for the government junta and the Sandinist National Liberation Front in reply to the tendentious campaign of very small pseudojournalistic groups which want to question the work of the Sandinist organizations.

The UPN and SRPM statement is emphatic. It makes clear the position of Nicaraguan journalism, which is opposed to any maneuver that has a tendency to delay the revolutionary process and discredit our revolution by alleging supposed violations of the freedom to express opinion.

The document states:

The UPN and the SRPM have been observing with increasing concern how the enemies of the Nicaraguan revolutionary process have expanded their unpatriotic work in the communications media which they own, control or exercise influence over. Sometimes they use libel. Other times they manipulate half-truths. At other times they use subtleties and occasionally they use former Somozist officials and even henchmen who are now dedicated to the task of "criticizing" the government, orchestrating a systematic campaign to create confusion among the Nicaraguan people to take advantage of the chaos which they dream of establishing. We have seen with amazement how owners of radio broadcasting stations which are openly reactionary encourage irresponsible newscasts supporting the leftist idiocy which, among other things, criticizes the revolution for not having beheaded those "industrialists of the electronic media."

Other media, under the obsolete belief that being a journalist means taking a microphone anywhere, even into contaminated puddles, have been converting their broadcasts into a spoken parade for all those who believe that the blood of our martyrs was spent only to do away with Somoza and that their right to continue exploiting and using privileges should be respected due to some sort of birthright, economic capacity or under the misused slogan of "we all participated in the war."

Some have gone to the extreme of appointing as journalists all those who, never having written anything against Somoza, are not profusely criticizing the Nicaraguan revolutionary process and are involved in a ridiculous campaign of mutual praise.

These same individuals are amazed when they are publicly called to account for their actions and make demands regarding their physical integrity, which no one has threatened, in spite of the fact that they have not had the slightest misgivings about calling or permitting others to call the leaders of the revolution Somozists. This constitutes the greatest ridicule to every honest Nicaraguan citizen, especially since it concerns persons who gave up their families and personal welfare to fight Somozism with gun in hand. Along the same line they go so far as to offend our people with [words indistinct] respect for their leaders and dedication to the construction of a new fatherland in the name of their heroes and martyrs.

The hate of this small group against everything which means revolution has led them to become "internationalists" who suffer from political myopia and, hence, never see the crimes which are committed against Puerto Rico, or the aid which reaches the bloodthirsty Duvalier, or the protection and shameless praise used for the genocidal former leader of Iran, or the support for the remaining dictatorships in Latin America, or the racist expansionism of the Zionists who armed Somoza to murder our people, or the criminal aggressors of Beijing against Vietnam and collaborators of Pinochet, or the colonialist powers of Africa and provocateurs who are in collusion with the CIA in Pakistan.

They are internationalists only when then want to locate the "sister nation of Afghanistan" on the map and want to demand congruence from the revolutionary government which, precisely because it does not suffer from any political myopia, did not want to aline itself on the side of those who have inflicted so much harm on humanity. It is a question of principle: Who is going to believe in the sincerity of these new anti-interventionists' position on Afghanistan?

They have also disguised themselves with communications media and political propaganda to defend the counterrevolutionary actions of those who without popular support, without personal authenticity and without any sincere desire to support the workers in power want to destroy our process and revive the drama of the Chileans in Nicaragua.

The UPN and the SRPM, once and for all, declare that the freedom of expression does not mean people have the right to broadcast whatever they want to; that ideological pluralism is not distorting Voltaire to defend what any pornographic mind wishes to disseminate through a communications media; that the right to inform others or oneself is not the legacy or birthright of anyone.

In this respect, we recommend to the corresponding government organizations that the Nicaraguan communications media shall not, according to the law, become the ownership or spokesman of persons or groups who conspire against the people.

We also urge the mass organizations to see that the communications media disseminate or publish their accomplishments and problems. This is a right which the revolution created and the creative possibility of the revolution to defend that right is inexaustible.

Managua, National District, 30 January 1978. [year as published]
[Signed] Board of Directors of the UPN, Executive Committee of the UPN, Board of Directors of the SRPM.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER CONFIRMED IN GUANTANAMO PROVINCE

FL111146 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Agriculture Ministry has released a note in Havana concerning positive cases of African swine fever detected in Guantanamo Province. Early this year, the note explains, some hogs were reported dead in a suburban area of Baracoa, and a group of specialists immediately went to the area to study the situation. Definitive diagnostic tests conducted in late January confirmed the presence of African swine fever in Cuba, and a national command post was established to direct measures for the control and eradication of the fever. As of last Friday, outbreaks of the disease were confirmed in 24 areas of seven muncipalities in Guantanamo Province. Following confirmation of the outbreaks in almost all municipalities and the danger of spread of the disease, the note continues, it was decided to sacrifice all the hogs in the province. This total elimination of the hogs should end no later than 13 February.

The note goes on to say that action is being taken in Santiago de Cuba to eliminate all hogs in a 5 km strip of land of bordering on Guantanamo. In Holguin, the other province bordering on Guantanamo, health posts were set up on roads to Guantanamo, and all hogs in a 5 km strip of land are being sacrificed. Strict control is also being exercised on all Guantanamo lines of communications with bordering provinces and sea and air transport services leaving Guantanamo.

In general, special instructions for Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas Provinces were designed, above all, to raise the state of alert regarding African swine fever. At the same time, a state of health alert was declared against the swine fever in the other provinces and Isle of Youth special muncipality.

Referring to the possible cause of these outbreaks, the Agriculture Ministry note says that it has been the growing arrival of Haitian immigrants en route to other countries, fleeing from the miserable conditions of life in their country. In most cases, these immigrants arrive in Cuba in vessels lacking the minimum requirements for navigation and without food, counting on the Cuban Government for aid and the repair of their dilapidated vessels.

This immigration has increased considerably in recent years and the unexpected arrival of these vessels on any point of the eastern coast has prevented strict adherence to international health control measures. From 1977 to early January 1980, there have been a total of 119 arrivals with a total of 4,146 immigrants. These illegal arrivals, the Agriculture Ministry note says, represent a potential threat because of the introduction of contagious diseases that affect man or livestock, and strict international health control measures are being taken.

African swine fever was previously detected in our country in the summer of 1971. At that time, the note concludes, the effective action of organizations and institutions involved in the control program, supported by the political and mass organizations and with the understanding and willingness of the people in general to apply the measures outlined, helped to eradicate the disease quickly. This support is again required, and the officials charged with the task of eradicating the disease must act with the greatest exigency to keep losses at a mimimum.

HAVANA RADIO ADDS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

[Broadcast Note FCS/WA] Havana's "La Voz de Cuba" (the Voice of Cuba) Radio has been observed since 5 February broadcasting English-language programs daily from 0500 to 1100 GMT.

These programs, transmitted on a single mediumwave frequency (600 khz), are announced for listeners in North America and the Caribbean. Indications are that the broadcasts began in late January.

The new English-language programming consists of news, commentaries, music and special features dealing with Cuba and Latin America. For example, some features monitored to date have included "Spotlight on Latin America," "Voices of the Revolution," "Socialism, the New World" and "Images of Cuba".

In addition to this new English-language service, the "Voice of Cuba" continues to broadcast 5 hours of Spanish-language programming nightly (0500-1000 GMT) to the Caribbean Basin. This service utilizes several high-powered mediumwave transmitters situated throughout Cuba. Havana's international service radio, "Radio Havana," also continues to broadcast approximately 10 hours of English-language programming daily to the Americas on shortwave.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ENACTS ARBITRATION DECREE

FL112301 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 11 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers has enacted Decree-Law No 60 which outlines the regulations governing the structure, organization, responsibilities and special functions of the organs of the system of state arbitration. This system was established to provide information and facilitate decisions in conflicts of an economic nature resulting from monetary aspects of contracts between state entities, state enterprises and budgeted units as well as between agricultural cooperatives and small farmers.

The regulations grant the national system of state arbitration, through the managing council, the right to exercise mandatory authority in matters of arbitration, to dictate standards which must be observed by all organs of the system and to give orders to a compulsory nature in the interpretation and implementation of economic legislation.

MINSAP ADVISORY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED

FL120142 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Feb 80 FL

[Text] With the participation of 21 outstanding specialists in various branches of medicine, the Public Health Ministry's [MINSAP] scientific and technical advisory council was established today. The council is headed by Prof Zoilo Marinello, member of the PCC Central Committee, with Dr Eugenio (Selmat) as vice president and Dr Francisco Rojas as secretary.

Referring to the high responsibility assigned to him, Dr Marinello stated: [Begin recording] We wish to state that the comrades in the government leadership and our public health minister can be sure that the members of the Public Health Ministry's scientific and technical advisory council will make the best effort within their abilities to be useful to the ministry, to Cuban public health and to our revolution. [end recording]

The ceremony held to establish the advisory council was chaired by Doctors Sergio del Valle and Jose Ramon Machado, both members of the PCC Politburo, and Jorge Lezcano, minister without portfolio and member of the PCC Central Committee. Referring to the importance of the advisory council, Public Health Minister Sergio del Valle said the council will be a collective organization for the benefit of our health, and will be of great assistance to him and the ministry. He added that there cannot be anything important for the MINSAP in which the scientific council does not participate.

CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ESTABLISH ENERGY GROUP

FL122131 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 12 Feb 80 FL

[Text] CARICOM countries now feeling the effects of steeply rising oil prices have agreed to establish an energy unit at the Georgetown-based CARICOM Secretariat. The move to set up the unit came out of last week's CARICOM foreign ministers meeting held in St Lucia. Secretary General Douglas Kurleigh King announced that there would be a regional ministerial energy conference later this year when proposals will be examined and a common approach will be worked out to help the struggling countries of the region to cope with the energy crisis. Except for Trinidad and Tobago all CARICOM member states are oil importers.

BARBADOS

CENTRAL BANK REPORT SHOWS INCREASE IN NATIONAL DEBT

FL112054 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 11 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Barbados Central Bank today released its latest statistical digest showing that at November last year the national debt had hit a new high of 210 million U.S. dollars. This figure shows an increase of approximately 21 million dollars over the corresponding period in 1978. A record 78 million dollars in cash was in circulation in the country in that month compared with the 69 million in the previous November.

The report shows total commercial bank deposits of 310 million dollars, a jump of over 50 million dollars in November 1978. Barbados' total international reserve at November 1979 was 71 million dollars, an increase of 12 million over the corresponding period in 1978.

JAMAICA

BRITISH CREDIT SETBACK HITS PRODUCTION, EXPORTS

FL061525 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 2 Feb 80 pp 1, 14 FL

[Text] Jamaica's export trade and production drive have suffered a serious setback with the virtual cutting off of credit from Britain for the purchase of raw materials and spare parts for use by the local manufacturing industry.

Under the terms of two lines of credit which were being operated through the Bank of Jamaica, local manufacturers had been able to purchase these requirements and thus maintain their production schedules.

But since the beginning of this year, this facility has virtually been cut off, because of action which has been taken by a department of the British Government.

As the position has been explained by informed sources, the position is that two leading British confirming houses--Gillespie Brothers and Thomas Bell--had extended lines of credit to this country, to the extent of some $80-million (U.S.) annually.

This credit was divided between 'public' credit done through the Bank of Jamaica, and 'private' credit operated by local manufacturers in direct contact with the two trading houses themselves.

These lines of credit have permitted Jamaica to buy goods from Britain and from other countries, under insurance cover provided by the Export Credit Guarantee Department, an official agency of the United Kingdom.

As of the end of last month, however, this insurance cover had been withdrawn by the British department with respect to purchases made outside Britain.

"They have put Jamaica off limits for medium-term transactions--that is, anything from three to five years--for external trade," a Bank of Jamaica source told the GLEANER.

"The effect of this is that we can no longer use these two lines of credit to purchase the non-British raw materials that we need."

Very Serious

As explained by this source, a Jamaican manufacturing plant is so tooled that about 80 per cent of the raw materials and other accessories which it uses come from sources other than the United Kingdom.

On the contrary, as much as 70 per cent has to be bought in the United States.

So that the cutting off of this external trade insurance coverage by the British Government agency is something "very serious", as it can cause a definite setback to the island's export and production drive.

According to the Bank of Jamaica source, the Gillespie and Bell lines of credit were very valuable. They were worth together some $80-million (U.S.) being about $40-million each, this being divided equally between what could be drawn by the Bank of Jamaica and what could be drawn by the private sector.

Asked what had gone wrong, to cause the British department to withdraw the insurance cover, the Bank of Jamaica source said this was not known.

Both Gillespie and Thomas Bell have protested the agency's action to the British Government, and the Bank of Jamaica has made formal representation, through the Government of Jamaica, to the British Government on the withdrawal of the facility.

Asked whether there had been any delinquency in payments that might have led to the British agency's decision, the Bank of Jamaica source said this was not the position, in their case.

Arrears

"We have been impeccable in our performance. The Bank of Jamaica does not owe any money in respect of any transactions under these two lines of credit. We don't know what has led to the present decision".

But a private-sector source said that the reason for the British decision was arrears of payments due under the two lines of credit.

According to this source, the trading houses give 180-day credit, but they have not been getting paid promptly. Payments have either been far behind or have not been substantial enough.

So they have refused to confirm any further orders for supply of goods for Jamaica, since the end of December.

Agreeing that this turn of events have followed the withdrawal of insurance cover by the Export Credit Guarantee Department of the British Government for purchases of non-British goods, the private-sector source added:

"This means a terrific loss to us.

"It is similar to what has happened to us with respect to the Ex-Im Bank of the United States. It means that we can virtually get no goods on credit from these two important supplier countries."

MINISTER PATTERSON LEAVES FOR TALKS IN U.S.

FL121249 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 FL

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs P.J. Patterson leaves the island for Washington today for discussions with the U.S. Government officials. During his visit Mr Patterson will be meeting with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other officials to discuss matters of a bilateral nature as well as various international issues. The minister returns to Jamaica at the end of the week.

PNP OFFICIAL IN IRAQ TO SEEK ASSISTANCE

FL121306 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The General Secretary of the People's National Party Dr D K Duncan is now in Iraq to seek the assistance of that country in closing the foreign exchange gap in the 1980-81 budget. Dr Duncan and his official party will also seek to establish other forms of cooperation between the Socialist Ba'th Party and the People's National Party. Both organizations are members of the Socialist International. Dr Duncan's visit to Iraq follows closely on that of National Security Minister Dudley Thompson and the Minister of State for Finance Richard Fletcher four-nation Middle East tour last month.

CENTRAL BANK OPERATIONS HALTED BY EMPLOYEE STRIKE

FL1212748 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 12 Feb 80 FL

[Excerpts] All operations at the Bank of Jamaica have been brought to a halt by a strike by the bank's over 600 employees. The workers have been staging a demonstration outside the central bank since morning in protest over the BOJ's failure to provide them with uniforms or other proper compensation. The action has affected the bank's operations as customers are not being allowed inside. At the same time, commercial banks are also being affected as some transactions involving foreign exchange have to be carried out in cooperation with the Bank of Jamaica.

Today's strike by the Bank of Jamaica's employees is the culmination of a series of 2-hour demonstrations being staged since last week to back their demands over the uniforms. A spokesman for the BITU (Bustamante Industrial Trades Union], which represents the workers, said the union is asking 200 dollars in lieu uniforms while the bank is offering 185 dollars. He said he expected that a meeting would be held today with the BOJ's management to discuss the issue which has also been referred to the Ministry of Labor.

BRIEFS

SOVIET TRADE UNIONISTS--Government security organs are preventing the visit of Soviet trade unionists, according to Hector Hilario Enriquez, secretary general of the Labor Unity Trade Union Movement [Movimiento Sindical de la Unidad Obrera] which invited them. Hilario Enriquez said yesterday that Investigation Department Director Col Oscar Padilla is the person opposing the Foreign Ministry's issuance of visas for the Soviets who were to have spent 8 days in our country. Hilario Enriquez said that the sinister hand of the CIA is behind it all. [Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 9 Feb 80 FL]